

November 19, 2021

Dear Friends,

As we are getting ourselves ready for Thanksgiving, I can't help but think about this very important question, "what happened when the turkey got into a fight?" Keep reading for the answer (it's a bad sign when I continue a theme from the week prior). Seriously, as we are preparing for Thanksgiving, we normally take the time to count our blessings, spend time with our family and friends and of course stuff ourselves silly with turkey or other favorite foods.

The family traditions for Thanksgiving are great. I think for many families this year will still be different. There are those people who may still not be able to see family members and others who are going to be gathering for the first time without loved ones who they have lost in this past year. As we count our blessings, I think it is good to be reminded of the fact that some people are not where we are or vice versa when it comes to this holiday and try to be sensitive to those around us.

The common theme around Thanksgiving, as we move closer to Christmas, is that we should be grateful for what we have and take time to do more to help those in need. Even at St. Matthew's we fall into the trap. Earlier this week, I was talking to Deacon Bill about things that we have collected for Thanksgiving. I don't remember which of the charities mentioned this to him, but right now they are flush with donations of food. Yet mid-winter or summer is probably one of the times in which they really need the support (something that we all can do, but we need to be reminded of this fact).

It is easy to be reminded during the holidays to be generous with our time and treasure as we help those in need. We also need to be reminded of the fact that the call to help is always there and should not be seasonal. Local charities and groups are always looking for support and help, not just during Christmas or Thanksgiving. During this time of year, we tend to take the time to count our blessings and thank God for the gifts and blessings we have received. At Thanksgiving we tend to emphasize this even more.

Everyday should be a day to count our blessings and give thanks to God. When we come to mass on Sunday, pray for a few moments saying Thank You. But also ask that you be open to that call to serve that we have been tasked with. Make it a year-long response, not just a holiday one.

Oh, and back to the poor turkey who got into a fight, I know you were waiting for this, he got the stuffing knocked out of him (sorry, I had to).

God Bless,
Fr. Brian